



LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

Date: January 18, 2024

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Conducted by Hybrid Participation - Arlington Community Center
HHS Conference Room and via Zoom

This will be a hybrid meeting. Individuals may choose one of the following in-person or virtual options:

Attend in person in the 2nd Floor HHS Conference Room at the Community Center (Senior Center), 20 Academy Street/27 Maple Street. Registration not required for in person attendance.

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial in information provided.

Present: Paloma Cotton-Herman, Molly Gillis, Fiona Perry, Lisa Krinsky, Andy Robinson, Kari Sasportas

Absent: n/a

Guests: Jillian Harvey (DEI), Teresa Marzilli (DEI), Len Diggins (Select Board), Julia Starkey (Library)

Minutes

Meeting called to order at: 6:32pm

1. Remote Participation Statement and Guidelines covered by PCH
2. Land Acknowledgement read by PCH
3. Review and approval of December Minutes
 - a. FP moved to approve; LK seconded
 - b. Minutes approved unanimously.
4. Review and approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. FP moved to approve; LK seconded

- b. Question raised about sign that had been vandalized.
 - c. Consent Agenda approved unanimously.
- 5. Co-chair Update (3 min.)
 - a. Commissioner Update and Search Process – Molly discussed meeting formats under the new leadership. Want to make sure all commissioners are enabled. Liaisons will provide updates in advance, but also have opportunity to highlight an important topic of their choosing. Also co-chairs will report back on cross-commission co-chairs meeting. 20 minutes will be included on a focus topic each meeting. The last co-chair meeting had a number of new leaders. Discussed key highlights, including upcoming Day of Learning. Lisa suggested that Commissioners communicate when we'll be supporting other community events across commissions. With 3 commissioners resigning, would like all commissioners actively getting the word out in the community. Lisa asked if we can revisit past candidates who weren't selected. Jill will coordinate with MBG & PCH to coordinate that outreach.
- 6. Liaison Updates (10 min., total)
 - a. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) – Lunar New Year at Town Hall on Jan 25. AHS and Ottoson groups will be present. A number of community members will be there with tables. RC would like to have a table. Geared to being family friendly, running 4:00-6:30pm, including performances. MLK Event went really well with over 200 people in attendance.
 - b. Police Department (APD) – Not present
 - c. GSA/QSA-AHS/Ottoson/Gibbs – Not present
 - d. Library – Julia pulls books from different identities and experiences for discussion groups. Lara is new assistant library director who's done community outreach in prior roles and wanting to explore where to apply it. April will be next Reel Queer event.
 - e. Select Board – No updates.
 - f. Council on Aging – Not present
- 7. Working Group Updates (10 min., total)
 - a. Education – First community conversation, Wed, Jan 24, 6:30pm at discourse lab, focused on inclusive classrooms, including panel discussion. Feb 10, 11-2 will be jointly hosting Day of Learning program. Discussion with Facing History and conversation around religion.
 - b. Community Engagement –
 - i. Working group leads held volunteer call on Jan 8, with 17 RSVPs and 9 attendees, plus Paloma, Lisa, and Andy. 5 people have signed up to work on 1 or more sub-groups, which include
 - 1. Activities - Help plan swag and activities for the festival
 - 2. Entertainment - Explore options for main festival. Possible separate adult evening event
 - 3. Vendors - Identify local community groups, businesses, food vendors, Pride merchandise for sale
 - 4. Crosswalk Painting - Coordinate purchase of supplies and volunteer recruitment

5. Marketing/Promotion

- ii. Will be setting up follow on sub-group meetings and announce them via newsletter.
 - iii. Transgender Day of Visibility – Fiona & Andy met on Wednesday 1/17 to discuss plans. Target date is Sat afternoon, March 30. Actual day is March 31, but that falls on Easter. Want to recruit others to speak and help with planning. Initial thoughts are on doing a panel. Will consider in-person vs. virtual. Will explore using First Parish, Senior Center, or other potential locations. Will include this in newsletter as well.
 - iv. Created the 2024 RC event calendar which we'll delve into as today's focus topic.
 - v. Kari suggested we do more to ensure collaboration across commissions. Group discussed wanting to have a presence, i.e. info table, to help raise awareness.
 - c. Town Systems & Policies – Molly & Paloma will share the listing of working groups to make sure we realign.
 - d. Communications – Fiona will be taking care of newsletter and Kari is covering social. Andy will have a training session with Fiona and Kari to go over MailChimp basics and newsletter process.
 - e. Budget – Jill has a template that will be shared by co-chairs in a future meeting, to get everyone on the same page.
8. Focus Topic: 2024 Commission Events Calendar (20 min)
- a. Kari would like to look at a joint event with Disability Commission and RC
 - b. Kari had some thoughts on Pride planning. Wanted to be sure we had alternate arrangements for weather. Andy explained Town Hall Gardens includes town hall. Suggestion to have a sensory friendly, quieter area to get away from noise. Rooms inside Town Hall can be purposed for that.
 - c. Kari also mentioned wanting to make effort to take accessibility into account in any of our Commission events.
 - d. Walked through the events on the calendar with the group.
 - e. Molly suggested we have 1-2 adult focused events. Ice cream social or other social events without necessarily having an agenda. Kari mentioned a North Shore event called Queers & Beers. Could look at having a table at the Res beer garden. Hiking could be another option. Gays for Good.
 - f. Look at doing something for LGBTQ+ History Month in Oct. Jill includes a monthly listing of DEI-related days/events on town website. Lisa suggested we track that to make sure we're mentioning things in our comms/social media content.
 - g. Fiona suggested keeping TDOR event, including a pre-gathering for Transgender community members.
9. Public Engagement and Open Commentary – No comments.
10. Close and Next Meeting. February 15. 6:30pm Hybrid. FP moved to adjourn, MBG seconded. Unanimous approval.